PHARMACISTS' BULLETIN

NOVA SCOTIA SENIORS' PHARMACARE PROGRAM
PHARMACARE
NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

March 2005 Vol. #05-03

MARCH BULLETIN

NEW GROUP OF PHARMACARE RECIPIENTS

The Nova Scotia Department of Health has established a new Pharmacare Program for long-term care (LTC) residents under age 65 who have no drug insurance.

On April 1, 2005, the Nova Scotia Department of Health will introduce a new publicly funded Pharmacare Program, the "*Under 65 - LTC Pharmacare Plan.*" To be eligible for this new program, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. The individual is a regular bed resident of a long-term care facility.
2. The individual is under age 65.
3. The individual has a valid Nova Scotia Health Card Number.
4. The individual does not have access to, or coverage under, another public or private drug plan.

In the past, pharmacies have been billing prescriptions for these individuals to the long-term care facility, or, in some cases, directly to the Department of Health. ***As of April 1, 2005,*** prescriptions for these clients should be submitted on-line to Pharmacare. The long-term care facilities will notify their respective pharmacy providers when eligible individuals have been enrolled as beneficiaries in the *Under 65 – LTC Pharmacare Plan*. Details of the Plan follow:

- The resident identification number for the plan will be the resident's Nova Scotia Health Card Number.
- Beneficiaries of the plan will not be charged a premium, deductible or co-payment.
- Benefits for this Plan will be the same as the benefits for the Community Services Pharmacare Programs. Full benefits are indicated with an "F" in the benefit status column of the *Nova Scotia Formulary*. Exception status benefits are indicated with an "FE" in the benefit status column of the *Nova Scotia Formulary*. Drugs not listed as benefits in the *Nova Scotia Formulary* or drugs not approved for exception status coverage will not be covered.
- All guidelines and restrictions that apply to the Pharmacare Programs apply to this Plan; for instance, Maximum Allowable Cost (MAC), Special MAC and days supply.
- Pharmacies must bill all claims for this Plan on-line, as per standard Pharmacare claim submission guidelines.
- The level of reimbursement to pharmacies is in accordance with the existing Pharmacare Tariff Agreement.

In recognition of the fact that these residents may be receiving prescriptions for drugs that are non-benefits or exception status approval under the Community Services Pharmacare Program, the long-term care facilities have been authorized to continue to reimburse pharmacies for these prescriptions until October 1, 2005. This provides a 6-month time period during which the facility, physician and pharmacy can work together to:

- Replace non-benefit drugs with an alternate agent that is a full benefit under the Community Services Pharmacare Program; and
- Obtain approval from the Pharmacare office for exception status requests. Exception status criteria and requests forms are listed in the Appendix III of the *Nova Scotia Formulary* and can be accessed on-line at: *www.gov.ns.ca/health/pharmacare*

INCLUDED WITH THIS BULLETIN:

- **New Products List**, *effective March 1, 2005*
- **PIN Changes**
- **Interchangeable Products List** *effective March 1, 2005*
- **Replacement page for February 2005 MAC List**
- **Nova Scotia Pharmacists' Guide**

Change to Maximum Allowable Cost List

The Maximum Allowable Cost (MAC) on the following categories will be ***effective March 1, 2005*** to reflect changes in the acquisition cost of the lowest priced brands. Enclosed are replacement pages for your February, 2005 MAC List which reflects these changes.

OCTREOTIDE	50mcg/mL Inj	*5.4012*
OCTREOTIDE	100mcg/mL Inj	*10.1976*
OCTREOTIDE	200mcg/mL Inj	*19.6077*
OCTREOTIDE	500mcg/mL Inj	*47.9073*

Nova Scotia Pharmacists' Guide

Enclosed is an updated version of the Pharmacists' Guide for the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs. Please replace this guide in the Pharmacists' Guide Section of your Nova Scotia Formulary Binder.

Nova Scotia Formulary

Please find enclosed page S7 of the Nova Scotia Formulary which was inadvertently omitted from the January 2005 Nova Scotia Formulary recently distributed to you. Please insert this page into your Nova Scotia Formulary Binder. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

A REMINDER . . . . Change in Tariff

Effective April 1, 2005 until March 31, 2006, the maximum professional fee payable to providers of the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs will be increased in accordance with the Tariff Agreement between the Nova Scotia Department of Health and the Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia. The following changes will be implemented on that date:

A. Professional Fees for prescriptions with a drug ingredient cost of up to $140:
The professional fee will increase from $9.83 to $10.12

B. Professional Fees for prescriptions with a drug ingredient cost of more than $140.
The professional fee will increase from $14.74 to $15.18

A copy of the Tariff Agreement is contained in the enclosed Nova Scotia Pharmacists' Guide or can be obtained from the Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia.

NEW PRODUCTS

The following products are "New Listings to the Nova Scotia Formulary" ***effective March 1, 2005***. The benefit status of each product within the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs is indicated. For those products "not insured", it was determined that there was no evidence of a clinical advantage over existing therapies and, in some instances, an increased cost to the Pharmacare Programs would be experienced.

DIN	PRODUCT	MFR	BENEFIT STATUS
02247813	Avodart 0.5mg Cap	GSK	E
02252716	Ciprodex Otic Suspension	ALC	not insured
02254689	Forteo 250mcg/mL Inj	LIL	not insured
02248417	Gynazole-1 Vag Cr	FEI	not insured
02253631	Teveten Plus 600mg/12.5mg Tab	SLO	SF
Ostomy Products:			
95099870	Allkare Protective Barrier Wipes (#37439)	CON	SF
95099871	Allkare Protective Barrier Wipes (#37444)	CON	SF

CRITERIA FOR COVERAGE

Dutasteride (Avodart)

- for the treatment of Benign Prostatic Hypertrophy when alpha antagoinsts are contraindicated or not tolerated

PIN CHANGE TO PHARMACARE BENEFITS
Effective March 1, 2005

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	MFR	OLD PIN	NEW PIN
AeroChamber Adult	TRU	00999977	96899993
AeroChamber Adult with Mask	TRU	00990892	96899998
AeroChamber Infant with Mask	TRU	00990015	96899999
AeroChamber Pediatric with Mask	TRU	00990017	96899992
AeroChamber Max Adult	TRU	00964433	96899997
AeroChamber Max Adult with Mask	TRU	00964409	96899994
AeroChamber Max Infant with Mask	TRU	00964425	96899996
AeroChamber Max Pediatric with Mask	TRU	00964417	96899995

INTERCHANGEABLE PRODUCTS ADDED TO NOVA SCOTIA FORMULARY
Effective March 1, 2005

EXISTING CATEGORIES:

Note: For those products with benefit status under the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs, the existing MAC will apply.

	DIN	Product	MFR	Benefit Status
GLICLAZIDE 80mg Tab	02254719	Rhoxal-Gliclazide	RHO	SF
PAROXETINE 20mg Tab	02254751	Rhoxal-Paroxetine	RHO	SFC
PAROXETINE 30mg Tab	02254778	Rhoxal-Paroxetine	RHO	SFC